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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INSECT PEST SURVEY

Bureau of Entomology, U. S. D. A.

and

State Agricultural Experiment Stations, cooperating.

Special Report 7.

April 7, 1921.

SEED-CORN MAGGOT ATTACKING POTATO SEED

Professor Franklin Sherman under date of April 6 reports a very serious outbreak of Pegomyia fuscipes in the Eastern part of North Carolina covering Pitt, Beaufort, Tyrell and Pamlico counties. The maggots attacking the seed potatoes in the soil before they sprout. He said that this type of damage was an "entirely new thing" in his experience.

Damage was first reported in late March and the insects were still at work when the report was sent to the survey.

Mr. W. B. Mabey, Extension Entomologist in North Carolina made careful counts in infested fields and found that 85% of the seed have been destroyed necessitating re-planting or abandoning the crop. He estimated that in the infested region the crop will be reduced 50% by the depredations of this insect. The infested region lies in the low costal plain and has a generally sandy loam soil.

The weather this Spring has been abnormally warm especially so since March 1.

A NEW PEST ON THE ROYAL PALM

In a recent letter received from Mr. G. F. Moznette of the Office of Fruit Insect Investigations of the Bureau of Entomology stationed at Miami, Florida, he sends specimens of an insect determined by Mr. McAtee as Xylas-todoris luteolus Barber. Mr. Moznette states:

"This species is at the present time very serious and destructive to the royal palm here. Apparently it is a species of Hemiptera, a very interesting form. I have never seen it before until now when people here commenced to complain about serious damage to their palms. The royal palms at this place are ten years of age and the superintendent tells me that he has never experienced this trouble before or noticed this pest. It may be something new which has crept in here."

According to Mr. McAtee, this species has been known heretofore only from Cuba.



